

Greetings from the Church Reopening Task Force

Under the CDC's new masking guidelines, most Massachusetts residents don't need to wear masks. Counties are classified as having low, medium, or high COVID-19 levels, but the recommendations for whether to wear a mask or not are significantly different. Acton is classified as having low COVID-19 levels. What does that mean for our church? The Reopening Task Force has reviewed our mask policy and effective March 13, wearing a mask is optional when indoors at the church.

Though the CDC guidance will give people a green light to take off their masks in a public setting, you may choose to continue to wear masks. If you are more comfortable wearing a mask, feel free to do so. We highly recommend it.

There will be circumstances that a fully vaccinated person should wear a mask when indoors at the church. The circumstances are:

- If you have a weakened immune system.
- If you are at an increased risk for severe disease because of your age or underlying medical condition.
- If someone in your household has a weakened immune system and is at risk for severe disease or is unvaccinated.
- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated to help prevent spreading COVID-19 to other people.

Finally, the nursery is reopening without reservations effective immediately. On March 13, the Coffee Hour will resume in Hartman Hall after in-person worship services. Food and beverages will not be served at this time.

Please continue to follow our in-person policies.

- Please sign in when you arrive for worship, so we have a record for contact-tracing, if need.
- Please try to maintain 3 feet from other groups seated in the pews when possible. Every other pew will be cordoned off.
- If you are uncertain about COVID-19 exposure, or not feeling well, please join our on-line services, which remain an important part of our ministry.
- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and have attended worship or other ACC programs in the past 5 days, please contact the church office immediately. The staff will keep the information confidential, and alert individuals that may have been exposed.
- If you have been in close contact with someone that has tested positive, please follow current CDC guidelines for when it is safe to return to in-person worship.

- Our children's and youth programs continue to observe safety protocols used in the Acton-Boxborough School System.
- Nursery care is available during the service each Sunday for children 0-3. In keeping with the Acton-Boxborough School System policies, masks will still be required for all adults and children over 3 in the Nursery. Sunday school programs will be mask-optional beginning March 13.
- Choir members are vaccinated and are using special masks designed for singing; there is no seating in the pews directly in front of the choir. Visiting musicians are being asked to follow the same protocols as church worship leaders, masking, or masking instruments as applicable, and maintaining distance from the congregation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church staff for more detailed information.

Yours in Christ,

The Reopening Task Force

Rev. Paul, Rev. Andrew, Nancy Barnes, Charlotte Brewer, Rod Kunz, Tracy Lane, Russ Lowe, Heather Makris, Jane Puffer